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May 24, 2005

Mr. Kevin K. Wright  
Commissioner  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
527 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Mr. Wright:

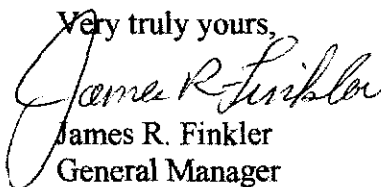
I am writing to express my opposition to Nicor Rate Case Docket No. 04-0779. Brunner & Lay, Inc. began operations in 1882 and has been an exemplary corporate citizen of the State of Illinois during these 123 years.

Brunner & Lay, Inc. is a manufacturing facility employing approximately 100 individuals in its Franklin Park facility. We pride ourselves on our quality product and excellent service to our customers. Competition from foreign sources constantly increases. We work very diligently on an ongoing basis to seek out cost savings in all areas of our operations to combat the foreign competition.

We consume natural gas for our heat treat operations and other manufacturing operations. This cost is very significant in our overall cost of operation. The proposal from Nicor will be very detrimental to our ability to continue to operate in Illinois. We have smaller facilities in other States and will be forced to seriously consider expanding our operations in these facilities if costs such as these continue to hamper our ability to operate efficiently in the State of Illinois.

I urge you and your fellow Commissioners to reject this Nicor proposal.

Very truly yours,

  
James R. Finkler  
General Manager

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*Accessories for the Mining, Quarrying, and  
Construction Industries.*